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JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

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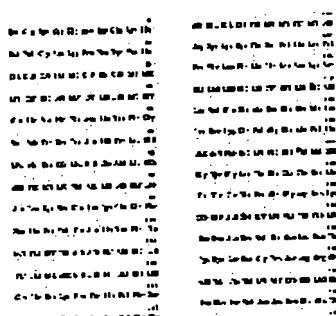
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(54) HEAT-STABLE FIREFLY LUCIFERASE, HEAT-STABLE FIREFLY
LUCIFERASE GENE, NEW RECOMBINANT DNA AND PRODUCTION OF HEAT-
STABLE FIREFLY LUCIFERASE

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide a new modified gene useful for the production of a heat-stable firefly luciferase.

CONSTITUTION: A heat-stable firefly luciferase gene coding an amino acid sequence corresponding to the amino acid sequence of a wild-type firefly luciferase, luciferase of *Luciola cruciata* (the amino acid sequence of formula)



or luciferase of *Luciola lateralis* provided that the 217th amino acid of the sequence is substituted with a hydrophobic amino acid (preferably isoleucine, leucine or valine). The luciferase gene is produced by site-specifically converting the 217th amino acid of the amino acid sequence of the wild-type firefly luciferase to a hydrophobic amino acid residue by treatment with reagent, irradiation with ultraviolet ray, genetic engineering technique, protein engineering technique, etc.

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